APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: NOV 2001

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CO ESF

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FM CIA

TO WHITE HOUSE SITROOM PASS EXCLUSIVE FOR BUNDY

DEPT STATE (CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER) PASS

EXCLUSIVE FOR RUSK, BALL, HARRIMAN AND HILSMAN

SSO ACSI DA (PASS EXCLUSIVE FOR MC NAMARA AND GILPATRIC.

PASS EXCLUSIVE FOR GENERAL TAYLOR AND GENERAL KRULAK).

ZEN

~~S E C R E T~~

FOLLOWING IS CAS SAIGON 0499

RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AS IN 10812:

THIS PARTICULAR coup IS FINISHED. GENERAL HARKINS CABLING GENERAL TAYLOR RESULTS THIS MORNING'S CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL KHIEM. SUMMARY OF KHIEM'S STATEMENTS IS TO EFFECT THAT GENERALS DID NOT FEEL READY AND DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT BALANCE OF FORCES. THEY HAD TALKED WITH NHU YESTERDAY AND HE HAS ASSURED THEM THAT SVN WOULD BE ABLE CONTINUE THE WAR, FINDING MEANS TO DO SO WHERE IT COULD. GENERALS THINKING OF PROPOSING TO DIEM THAT HE BRING SENIOR OFFICERS INTO CERTAIN CABINET POSITIONS WITH NHU IN CHARGE OF CABINET, I.E., A KIND OF PRIME MINISTERIAL ROLE. HARKINS' JUDGEMENT IS THAT GENERALS WERE NOT READY AND COULD NOT ACHIEVE BALANCE OF FORCES FAVORABLE TO THEM.

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